APPENDIX A

POLICY ON THE PROCUREMENT AND ADVANCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTALLY-SOUND AND RECYCLED PRODUCTS FOR THE NEW BRUNSWICK GOVERNMENT

Introduction:

The Department of Supply and Services is responsible for the administration of the Public Purchasing Act. As the central buyer for the provincial government, the department acquires a large variety of goods and materials in considerable quantities.

The growing concerns for the preservation of the environment are important and legitimate reasons for the Department to display leadership in the procurement and the promotion of environmentally-sound goods whenever practical. In addition, the policy is an integrated part of the New Brunswick Government's efforts to reduce the amount and toxicity of wastes generated by the numerous and complex operations of government. This approach, however, still takes into consideration budgetary and economic factors and retains the fairness of the tendering process.

The Implementation of the Policy on the Procurement and Advancement of Environmentally-Sound and Recycled Products for the New Brunswick Government is the responsibility of the Minister of the Department of Supply and Services.

Policy:

The Department of Supply and Services in cooperation with the Department of the Environment will:

1. Determine where the reduction and elimination of unnecessary waste material and the use of recycled products can be integrated with government purchasing practices, and give preference to environmentally-sound products.

2. Investigate the availability of environmentally-sound products and take appropriate action to keep informed about the availability of new products.

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3. Maintain, update and circulate the list of criteria for available environmentally-sound products.

4. Cooperate with provincial industries to create interest and develop current and new markets supporting the provincial government procurement policy.

5. Encourage the substitution of cleaning products, solvents, chemicals and other hazardous products by biological compatible products.

6. Encourage the use of paper products with recycled material content and acid-free (alkaline) paper products for government copying and printing.

7. Encourage the composting and recycling of garden and lawn wastes of provincial buildings.

8. Develop an education program for government employees to increase awareness of better paper usage and thereby reduce paper waste.

9. Inform suppliers through a message on invitations to tender and tender specifications that preference will be given to environmentally-sound products.

It is possible that some suppliers will be affected on a short-term basis by this policy. However, the policy will also foster the development of alternate industries and the Department is committed to encourage the entrepreneurial skills of New Brunswick firms through new and additional opportunities.